

# The Tenth Amendment

America's governing leaders need to focus their attention on the Tenth Amendment to the Constitution, which states:

*“The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.”*

In other words, much of what our federal government is doing today is unconstitutional because it violates the Tenth Amendment.

Under the Constitution, the federal government is supposed to be a government with specific enumerated powers.

The Constitution does not authorize the federal government to set up a huge welfare state.

The Constitution does not authorize the federal government to set up a national health care system.

The Constitution does not authorize the federal government to redistribute wealth to achieve equality of condition.

**James Madison**, the father of our Constitution, actually thought the Tenth Amendment was unnecessary because the entire Constitution is about limiting and defining the precise responsibilities of the federal government.

The Tenth Amendment, Madison thought, would be redundant. As Madison put it:

*“The powers delegated by the proposed Constitution to the federal government are few and defined. Those which are to remain in the State governments are numerous and indefinite.”*

*James Madison, The Federalist No. 45*

But others of the America's Founding Fathers, wanted to make absolutely certain there could be no misunderstanding about the limited role of the federal government, insisted on adding the **Tenth Amendment**.

The Tenth Amendment is really a summary of what used to be widely known as the principles of “Federalism”

Our government today bears little resemblance to the limited government established by our Constitution, and protected by the Tenth Amendment.

One of the keys to reclaiming our great nation for liberty and stopping the bureaucratic despotism we see coming out of Washington is to educate the citizenry about the Constitution and the principles that made America great.

Our political leaders are only as good as the voters who elect them. If the voters are ignorant of the principles of liberty that made America great, then our leaders will be as well.